

# Soviet convoy roars through Lithuanian city

By The Associated Press

**VILNIUS, U.S.S.R.** — About 100 Soviet military vehicles rumbled through the Lithuanian capital before dawn yesterday in what independence leaders called another calculated Kremlin effort to rattle their nerves.

After the convoy roared through, the Lithuanian capital was quiet, and polls opened for elections to local governing councils.

A deadline for Lithuanian deserters to return to their Soviet military units passed with no immediate reports of action being taken to round them up.

In Moscow, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said two U.S. diplomats ordered out of Lithuania by the Soviet government on Friday had been instructed by the embassy to comply with the order. But he could not confirm the officials actually had found transportation out of the Baltic republic and left.

In referring to yesterday's maneuver, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told the Supreme Soviet legislature: "We felt we were really in an occupied country. An alien power sent forces and we don't know why."

"Tension is rising with this demonstration of military force, with this frightening of people with Soviet soldiers."

The legislators, who were in session about 300 feet from the path of the convoy when it rumbled through Vilnius about 4 a.m., passed a resolution transferring power to the senior diplomat of independent Lithuania in Washington in case of a Soviet assault or their arrests.

Since declaring independence from Moscow on March 11, Soviet leaders have repeatedly warned the Baltic republic to return to the Soviet Union. President Mikhail S. Gor-

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bachev has called the move illegal but said he would not use force.

The formerly independent republic was crushed by Stalin's army in 1940 and annexed by the Soviet Union.

Moving the column into Vilnius increased the military pressure on the Lithuanian government by making it simpler for Moscow to send the troops quickly into action. But it appeared calculated to enter the city when it was deserted, seemingly to ensure that no confrontations would take place.

"This is absurd, armored vehicles don't usually drive through the middle of town in the middle of the night," Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimeira Prunskeine told reporters at the legislature.

"We're not afraid, but we don't know what they want, and we don't know what they will do in the next few hours," she said.

Official Lithuanian sources said the vehicles containing at least 1,000 paratroopers armed with automatic weapons, rumbled along the main highway through the heart of Vilnius without stopping.

There were at least 22 tanks and armored personnel carriers and dozens of green military trucks. The parliament's information department said there were 59 tanks.